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23 September 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator Allen J. Ellender re
Upcoming Soviet Trip

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1. Today, Messrs. [] (DD/I) and []
[] (DD/P) and the undersigned met Senator Ellender in a private office in the Capitol in response to his earlier request to the Director for a briefing on matters of interest to us which he might keep in mind during his upcoming trip to the Soviet Union. The Senator did most of the talking and recalled, in surprising detail, a number of his experiences on several previous, lengthy trips through the Soviet Union in the late 1950's and early 1960's.
2. The Senator displayed a keen understanding of Soviet agriculture and on his previous trips was apparently a shrewd observer and a skillful elicitor of information. He particularly prides himself on his ability, on these earlier occasions, to gain access to normally inaccessible top Soviet officials.
3. A copy of his proposed itinerary is attached hereto. We indicated several key points thereon which are normally inaccessible to foreigners where we thought his observations might be of particular interest.
4. We provided the Senator with a copy of the attached, unclassified list of key Soviet personalities, with brief biographic sketches of each whom we thought it worthwhile for him to try to see.
5. We also touched on some current policy issues which he might discreetly bring up in discussions with appropriate Soviet personalities.

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6. We cautioned the Senator that under no circumstances should he mention, even in the Embassy or to Embassy officials, the fact of our meeting with him, or indeed anything regarding the Agency. The Senator assured us he fully understood the importance of discretion in this regard.

7. During our conversation, the Senator [redacted]

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[redacted] seemed friendly toward the Agency and was definitely complimentary when asked his reaction to the Director's briefing of the Defense Subcommittee of Senate Appropriations on 16 September 1968.

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[redacted]
JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject

1 - [redacted]
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